SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) FAQs

Got more questions about Solar PV? You should find all the answers below. And if you can't, give our Green Energy Team a call on **0800 404 7434**^. They'll fill in the gaps.

Are there different types of Solar PV?

Yes, Solar PV modules come in two main types: mono-crystalline (extracted from a single crystal) and poly- crystalline (made up of many crystals).

What are Solar PV modules?

Most Solar PV systems are formed of an arrangement of PV modules. These modules comprise a series of interconnected PV cells, laminated between glass and a back-sheet and held within a rigid aluminum frame. PV modules are usually the most cost-effective solution and can be tailored to fit the required size for your home.

Where is the best place to install Solar PV panels?

Although the panels can be installed anywhere facing between south east and south west, the closer south the better, as more sunlight will reach the PV cells. Solar PV works in direct sunlight, so if trees or buildings shade your home during daylight hours, the amount of electricity generated could be reduced.

Can I sell the electricity I generate back to EDF Energy?

Yes, and now is a great time to install our solar PV panels as you can benefit from the new Government Feed-in Tariffs (FITs) scheme.

You could benefit from FITs in three ways:

1. Generation tariff – we will pay you a set rate up to 41.3p for each unit (or kWh) for all the electricity you generate through your new solar PV system which even includes the electricity you use to run your appliances. You will continue to benefit from the same tariff for the next 25 years.
2. Export tariff – we will pay you up to a further 3p for each unit (or kWh) you export back to the electricity grid, that is when it isn't used on site.
3. Savings on your energy bills – you'll make further savings because generating electricity to power your appliances means you buy less electricity from us. The amount you save will vary depending how much of the electricity you use on site but according to the Energy Saving Trust this could be as much as 50% on average of the electricity you generate.

How much can I save under the new FITs scheme?

For our standard 2.16kWp installation you could make the following savings:

- up to £758 a year for the Generation Tariff *
- up to £27 a year for the Export Tariff*
- £110 a year reduction in current electricity bills**
- combined FITs income and electricity savings of £895 a year*/**

This gives a total saving of £895 a year!

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Will I need planning permission?

Recent changes to planning rules mean that you may not have to seek planning permission for solar systems. However, some local authorities will insist on planning permission being gained prior to installation. You will usually need planning permission if your property is:

- In a National Park/Area of Outstanding National Beauty
- In a Conservation Area
- An Archaeologically Sensitive Area
- A Site of Special Scientific Interest
- A Listed Building

Don't forget to call our Green Energy Team on 0800 404 7434^, so you can start generating your own energy.

*Based on figures derived from the Energy Saving Trust using a standard 2.16kWp installation generating 1,836kWh per year. Amount of up to £758 paid through the Generation Tariff at 41.3p per unit (kWh) for 1,836kWh generated. Amount of up to £25 paid through the Export Tariff at 3p per unit (kWh) based on an average of 50% (918kWh) of the electricity generated that's exported back to the electricity grid. **Saving based on average standard UK electricity tariffs and assumes that 50% of electricity generated will be consumed on site.

^Calls may be monitored and recorded as part of our customer care programme. Calls to '0800' numbers are free from BT landlines; other network operators may charge for these calls.

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